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IN THE CLAIMSWHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. (Currently Amended) An image capturing system comprising:  
a visual sensor providing image data corresponding to sensed images, the visual sensor selectively directed toward a first writing surface position to sense a first image and toward a second area spaced apart from the first writing surface position to sense a second image; and  
an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor capable of processing the image data as a function of direction of the visual sensor toward the first writing surface position or the second areaposition.
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2. (Currently Amended) The image capturing system of claim 1 and further comprising  
a storage device for storing a first processing value and a second processing value, wherein the image processor processes the image data of the first writing surfaceposition using the first processing value, and wherein the image processor processes the image data of the second areaposition using the second processing value.
3. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 2 wherein the visual sensor includes a zoom lens, and wherein the first processing value relates to a first setting of the zoom lens and the second processing value relates to a second setting of the zoom lens.
4. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 2 wherein the

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first processing value relates to an optical correction for distortion of the first image and the second processing value relates to an optical correction for distortion of the second image.

5. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 1 wherein the visual sensor comprises a sensing device having a plurality of sensing elements.

6. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 5 wherein the sensing device comprises a linear array of sensing elements.

7. (Currently Amended) An image capturing system comprising:  
a visual sensor adapted to provide image data corresponding to sensed visual images of a writing surface or a second area spaced apart from the writing surface; and  
an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor capable of identifying information provided on the writing surface apart from the writing surface.

8. (Currently Amended) The image capturing system of claim 7 and further comprising a storage device for storing a reference visual image of the writing surface or the second area, and wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access the reference visual image to identify information provided on the writing surface or the second area.

9. (Currently Amended) The image capturing system of claim 7 wherein the visual sensor comprises a sensing device adapted to scan the writing surface or the second area.

10. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 7 and further

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comprising a storage device for storing a processing value related to correction of the visual image for optical distortion, wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access and use the processing value during image processing.

11. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 7 wherein the image processor is adapted to identify an area requiring reimaging.

12. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 11 wherein the image processor controls the visual sensor to obtain a second visual image of at least the area, if reimaging is required, and wherein the processor is adapted to combine the first-mentioned visual image with the second visual image.

13. (Currently Amended) An image capturing system comprising:  
a visual sensor providing image data corresponding to sensed images from a writing surface or a second area spaced apart from the writing surface, the visual sensor comprising a set of adjacent sensing elements being exposed collectively to successive portions of the image; and  
a storage device for storing sensing element control values; and  
a controller coupled to the storage device and the visual sensor, the controller controlling a time duration of exposure of the sensing elements to the portion of image as a function of exposure to successive portions.

14. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 13 wherein a sensing element control value is provided for each sensing element for each successive portion of the image.

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15. (Currently Amended) The image capturing system of claim 13 and further comprising: an image processor coupled to the visual sensor to receive the image data from the visual sensor, the image processor capable of identifying information provided on the writing surface or the second area apart from the writing surface or the second area, respectively.

16. (Currently Amended) The image capturing system of claim 15 and further comprising a storage device for storing a reference visual image of the writing surface or the second area, and wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access the reference visual image to identify information provided on the writing surface or the second area.

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17. (Original) The image capturing system of claim 15 and further comprising a storage device for storing a processing value related to correction of the visual image for optical distortion, wherein the image processor is coupled to the storage device to access and use the processing value during image processing.

18. (Currently Amended) In combination with a defined writing surface provided in a fixed location in a room and a second area spaced apart from the writing surface, an image capturing system disposed in the room at a second location remote from the writing surface and the second area and selectively directable to sense successive visual images of at least one of the writing surface and the second area from a single location and adapted to identify information provided on the at least one of the writing surface and the second area.

19. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 18 wherein the

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image capturing system including an image processor to identify information on the at least one of the writing surface and a second area as a function of a reference visual image of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area.

420 7 20. (Original) The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system includes a visual sensor disposed above the writing surface.

21. (Original) The combination of claim 20 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a ceiling of the room.

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23. (Original) The combination of claim 22 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a wall of the room.

24. (Original) The combination of claim 23 wherein the visual sensor is disposed above the writing surface.

25. (Original) The combination of claim 24 wherein the visual sensor is mounted to a ceiling of the room.

26. (Currently Amended) The combination of claim 18 wherein the image capturing system includes a visual sensor adapted to scan the at least one of the writing surface or the second area.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining information provided on at least one of a writing surface and a second area

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spaced apart from the writing surface in a room, the method including:

locating an image capturing system at a second location in the room remote from the writing surface and the second area;

sensing a visual image of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area with the image capturing system; and

identifying information provided on the at least one of the writing surface and the second area with the image capturing system.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein identifying information includes identifying information as a function of a reference visual image of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area.

29. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein sensing a visual image includes compensating for distortion of the visual image.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein sensing includes sensing a plurality of visual images of each of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein identifying includes identifying information as a function of a plurality of visual images from each of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein identifying includes ~~identifying~~ ~~includes~~ comparing a first visual image to a second visual image.

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33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein sensing a visual image includes ~~initiating~~imitating sensing of a visual image with a switch movable relative to the second location.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein the image capturing system is selectively directable to obtain ~~thea~~ visual image of each of the at least one of the writing surface and a visual image of thea second area, the method further comprising directing the image capture system toward the writing surface or the second area, and wherein sensing includes sensing a visual image of the writing surface or the second area.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 wherein positioning includes operating a switch to direct the image capture system toward the writing surface or the second area.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34 wherein sensing comprises providing image data corresponding to the visual image of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area, and wherein the method further comprises storing a first processing value and a second processing value, and processing the image data using the first processing value and the second processing value as a function of direction of the image capture system toward the writing surface or the second area, respectively.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein sensing comprises scanning the at least one of the writing surface and the second area.

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein identifying information includes detecting an area of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area requiring

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reimaging.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38 and further comprising:

reimaging at least the area of the at least one of the writing surface and the second area to obtain a second visual image; and

combining the first-mentioned visual image with the second visual image.